



# HEMP for VICTORY



\$2.50  
\$2.95 CAN.

Based on the  
film produced  
by the U.S. Dept.  
of Agriculture



Illustrated by  
**Art Penn**



Starhead Comix PROUDLY PRESENTS

# HEMP FOR VICTORY

an irreverent adaptation of the U.S.D.A.'s WWII film

The war against environmental degradation dwarfs all previous international conflicts in scope and complexity—and in the need for mutual cooperation. Did you know that a miraculous plant, if cultivated in industrial quantities, could help solve—*immediately*—many of the world's most dire woes, but that this crop is illegal in many Western countries?!

Did you know that the United States' costly "War On Drugs"—which has victimized many innocent citizens and eroded our civil liberties—claims as one of its primary targets this very plant?

Did you know that this plant offers unique medicinal properties—effective for the treatment of glaucoma, many cancers, and AIDS—that pharmaceutical conglomerates have tried for years *in vain* to replicate?

Yesterday and today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture acknowledges the vitality, versatility, and sustainability of HEMP, the fibrous crop excellent for paper, clothing, food and medicine, even plastics, and obtainable by cultivating *cannabis sativa*—that's right: marihuana!

STARHEAD COMIX proclaims "Hemp for Victory!" the essential slogan for the '90s, exclaiming the means for resolving many of the world's pressing environmental and economic dilemmas. And Starhead offers an informational salvo in the growing battle with this subversive adaptation of *Hemp for Victory*, the U.S.D.A.'s hortatory World War II film that details its program for *successfully cultivating all the hemp the country could use!* When you've finished reading, please consider the issues raised—and pass this inexpensive comic book on to a friend!

NOW MORE THAN EVER THE SLOGAN RINGS TRUE!

BELOW ARE JUST A FEW ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING HEMP INFORMATION, PRODUCTS, & ACTIVISM!  
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET INFORMED! WE ENJOIN YOU TO GET ACTIVE!

#### Americans Against Marijuana Prohibition

P.O. Box 2062 Westminster, MD 21157  
410-857-6484 • Pamela Davis  
The Pamela Snow White Davis Legal Defense Fund welcomes support in fighting this hemp retailer's wrongful prosecution

#### American Anti-Prohibition League

3125 SE Belmont St. Portland, OR 97214  
503-235-4524 • Floyd Landrath

#### Americans for Compassionate Use

3745 - 17th St. San Francisco, CA 94114  
415-864-1961 • Dennis Peron  
"dedicated to making medical marijuana available worldwide"

#### Drug Policy Foundation

4455 Connecticut Ave. NW : SUITE B500  
Washington D.C. 20008-2302  
202-537-5005 • Dave Fratello  
a library of essential books available through mail order

#### The Green Panthers

P.O. Box 9845 Washington D.C. 20016  
hardcore, on-the-streets activism

#### Hemp Hour Store

128 Oakland Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-682-3530 • Bonnie Kurtz

#### Institute for Hemp

P.O. Box 65130 St. Paul, MN 55165  
612-222-2628 • John Birrenbach  
Hemp for Victory video : \$14.95 + \$4 postage/handling

#### LA Cannabis Action Network (CAN)

4428 S. Carrollton New Orleans, LA 70119  
504-482-4094 • Kevin Aplin

#### Legal Marijuana—The Hemp Store

1304 W. Alabama Houston, TX 77006  
713-521-1134 • Richard Tomcalla

#### Michigan Hemp Producers / New Choices

P.O. Box 27172 Lansing, MI 48909  
517-371-HEMP (4367) • bill-i

#### Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, Inc. (MAPS)

1801 Tippah Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205  
704-358-9830 • Rick Doblin  
tax deductible donations welcome to aid medical marihuana research,  
particularly re: the wasting syndrome associated with AIDS

#### National Coalition Against Prohibition

187 Acalanes Dr. #14 Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
415-964-5520 • Eric Harlow  
"End the Drug War—Save Our Children"

#### The Ohio Hempery

14 N. Court St. #328 Athens, OH 45701  
614-593-5826 / 1-800-BUY-HEMP • Don Wirtshafter  
Hemp-based paper and various products via mail order

#### PARTIE America / Save Our Constitution

116 Floral St. Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
313-463-3486 • Marvin Marvin  
retail store offering Hemp-based products

#### Send A Message / Hemp City

505 Patricia Dr. San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-396-HEMP (4367) • Joe Ptak  
a standing colony to support the San Marcos 7  
and others pursuing misdemeanor trial cases

#### TX Hemp Campaign

P.O. Box 13549 Austin, TX 78711  
512-441-4099 / 837-4674 • Mariann G. Wizard

#### Tree Free EcoPaper

121 SW Salmon : SUITE 1100 Portland, OR 97204  
1-800-775-0225

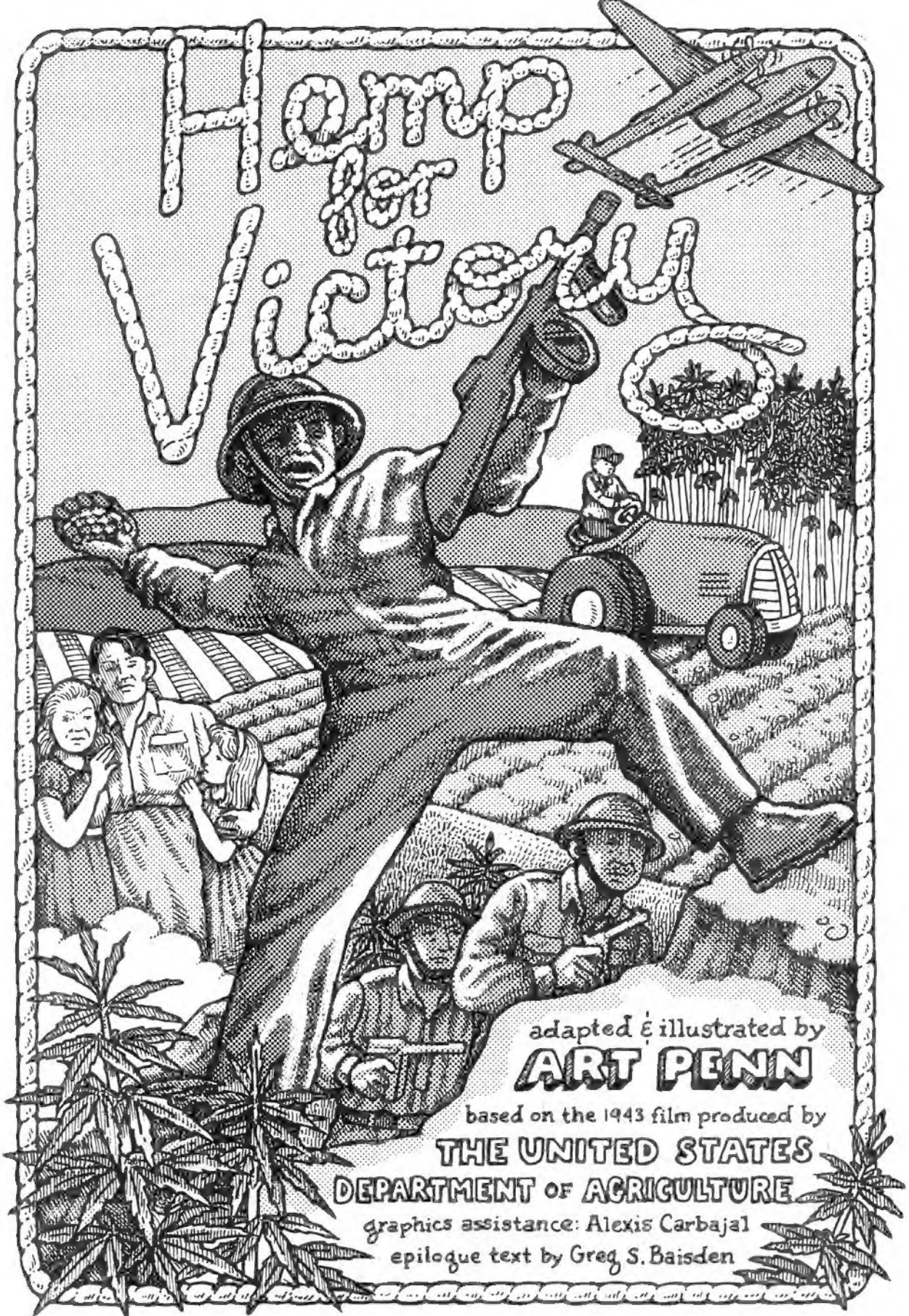
#### Truth in Marijuana Education

Box 7036 Chico, CA 95927  
916-345-1154 • Ed Ostler  
send \$1 for excellent informational packet

#### VA Business Alliance for Commerce in Hemp

Route 1 Box 2142 Crewe, VA 23930  
804-646-1038 • Lennice Werth & Sandy Hayer  
Little Sisters of the Mother Herb

# Hamp for Victory

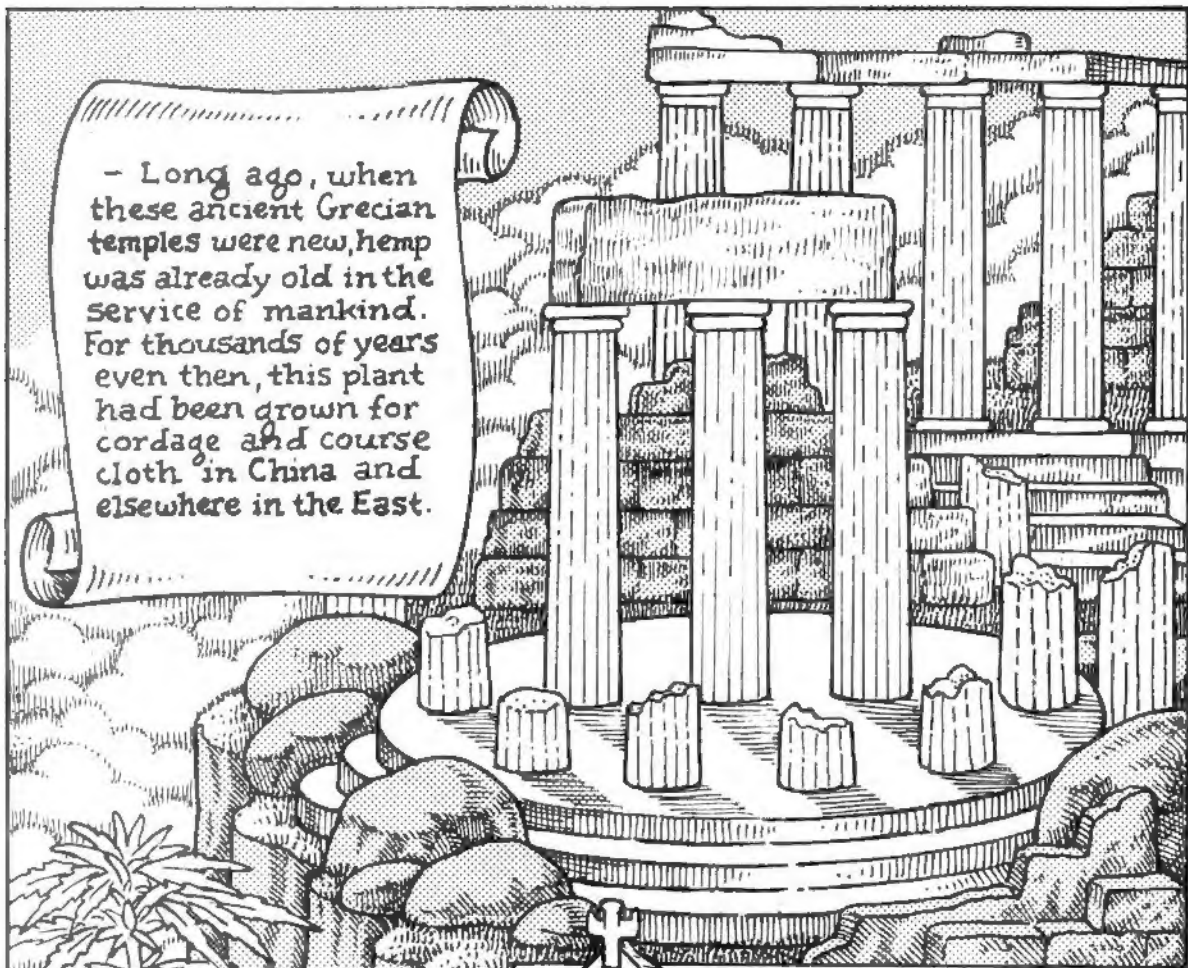


adapted & illustrated by  
**ART PENN**

based on the 1943 film produced by  
**THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

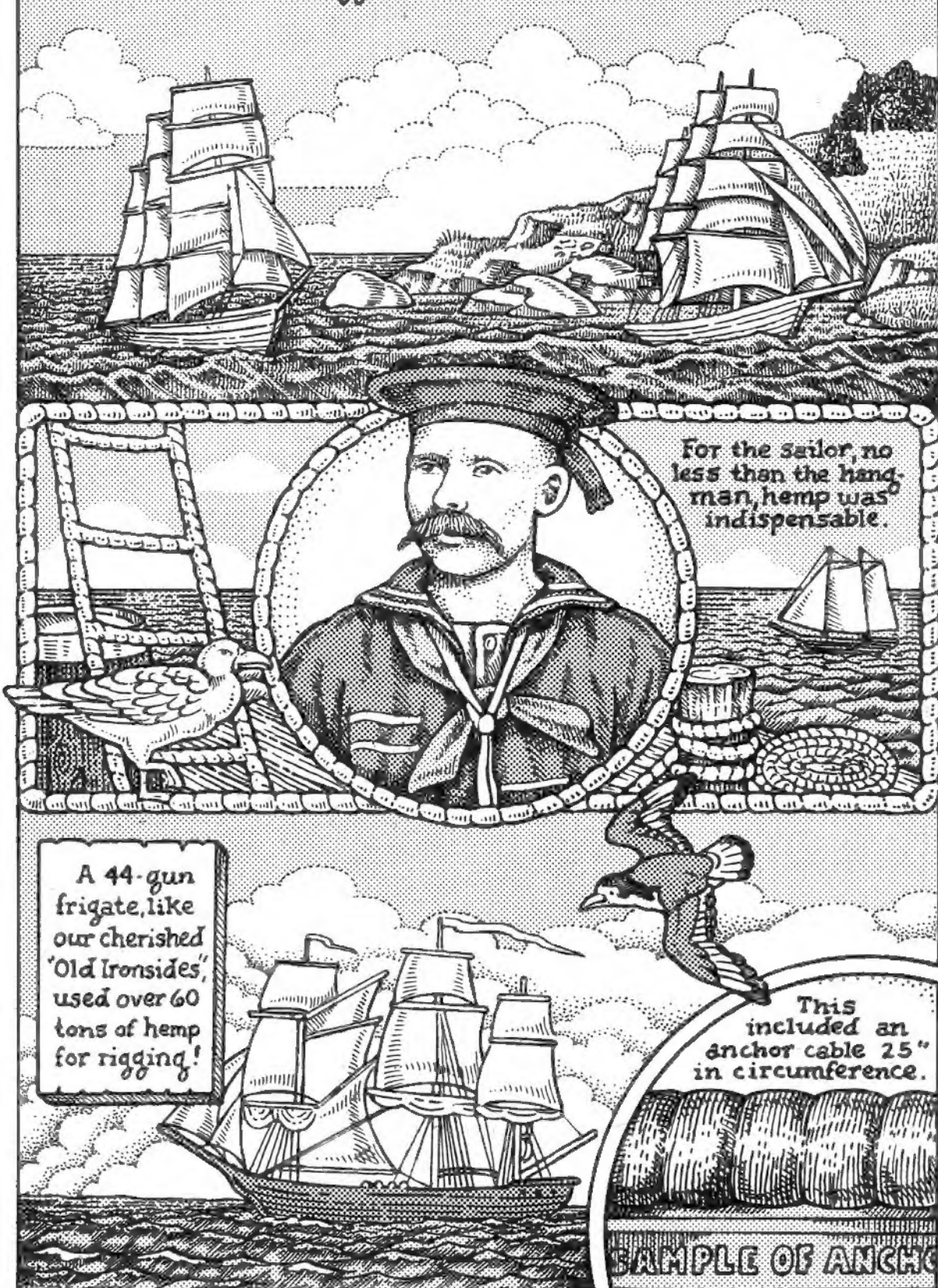
graphics assistance: Alexis Carbajal  
epilogue text by Greg S. Baisden

- Long ago, when these ancient Grecian temples were new, hemp was already old in the service of mankind. For thousands of years even then, this plant had been grown for cordage and coarse cloth in China and elsewhere in the East.





For centuries prior to about 1850, all the ships that sailed upon the Western seas were rigged with hempen rope and sails.....



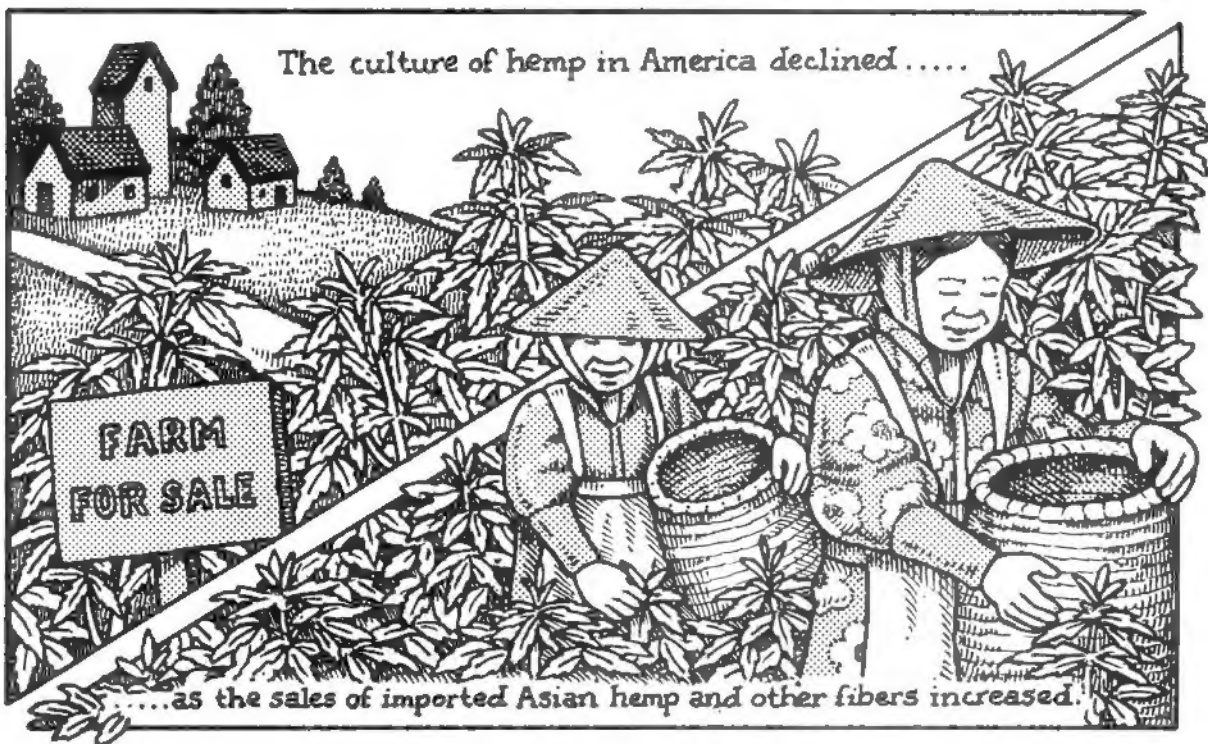
The Conestoga wagons and "prairie schooners" of pioneer days were covered with hemp canvas. Indeed, the very word "canvas" is derived from the Arabic word for hemp.



In those days hemp was an important crop in Kentucky and Missouri. But then came cheaper imported fibers for cordage, like jute, sisal, and Manila hemp.

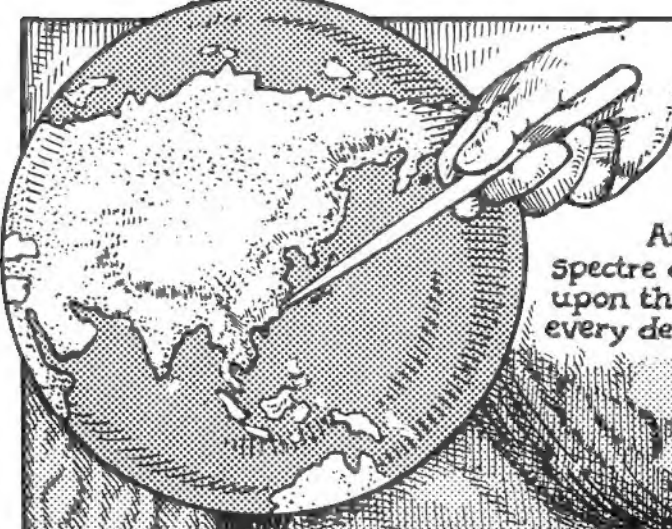


The culture of hemp in America declined .....



.....as the sales of imported Asian hemp and other fibers increased.



A hand holding a knife is shown in the upper left corner, cutting into a globe. The globe is marked with continents and oceans, and the knife is positioned as if it has just made a cut or is about to. The background of the entire illustration is a large, intense face of a man with a mustache, looking down at a scene of destruction below.

But now the Philippine  
and East Indian sources of  
hemp have fallen into the  
hands of the Japanese....

And all the while the menacing  
spectre of Hitler's armies descend  
upon the world - threatening each and  
every decent citizen of the Allied Nations!



As the United States joins forces with other free nations of the world, each American is called upon to do his part for the war effort.

Farmers can lend a hand by aiding the government in the cultivation of all-purpose and much-needed hemp fiber.





In 1942, patriotic farmers at  
the government's request planted  
36,000 acres of seed hemp, an  
increase of several thousand  
percent.....



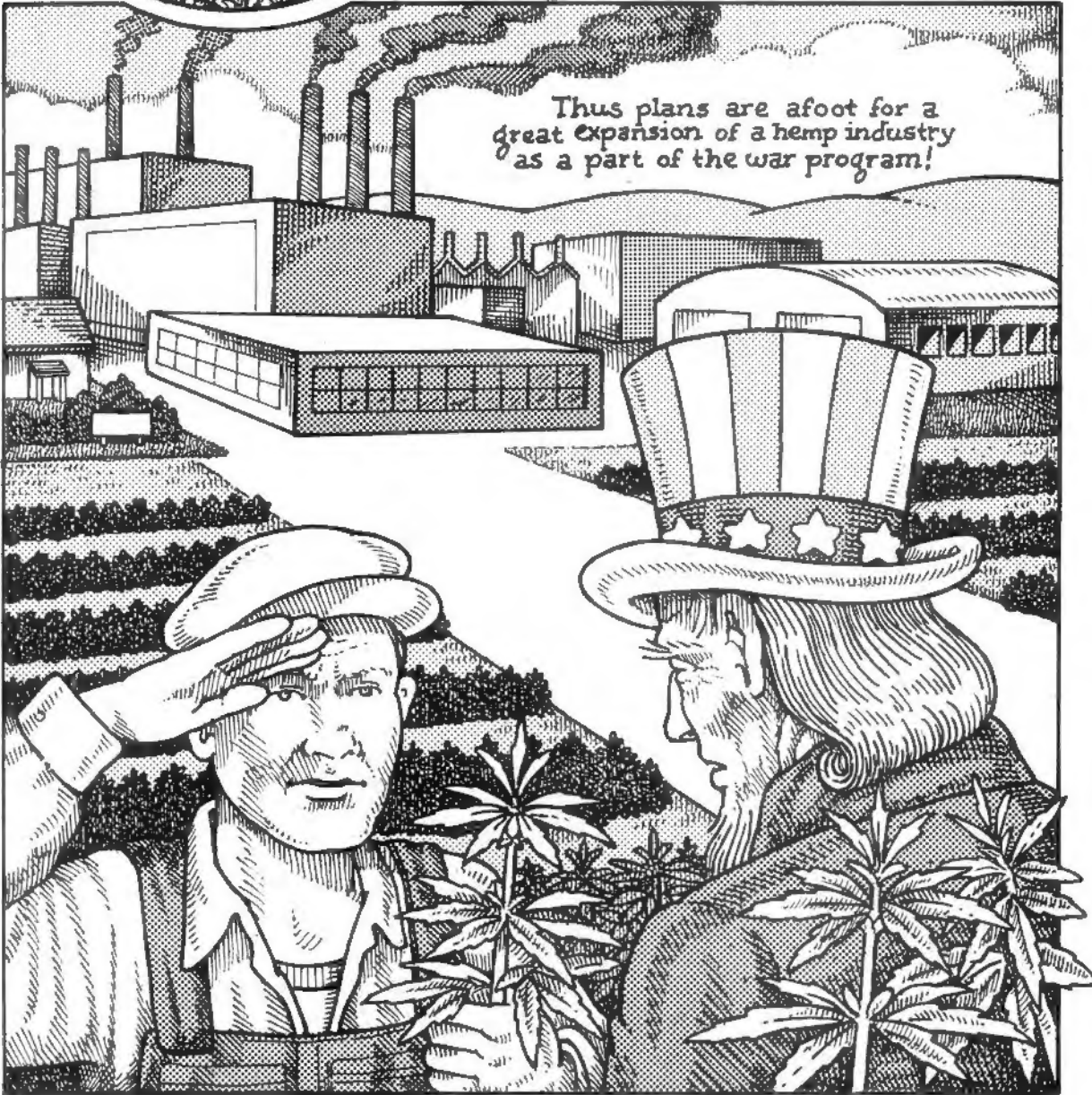
The goal for 1943 is 50,000 acres of seed hemp.....



In Kentucky, much of the seed-hemp acreage is on river bottom land such as this. Some of these fields are inaccessible except by boat.



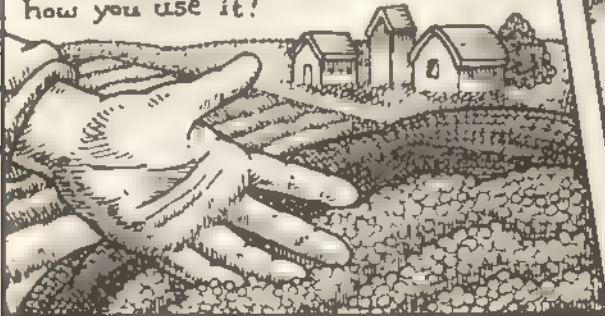
Thus plans are afoot for a great expansion of a hemp industry as a part of the war program!



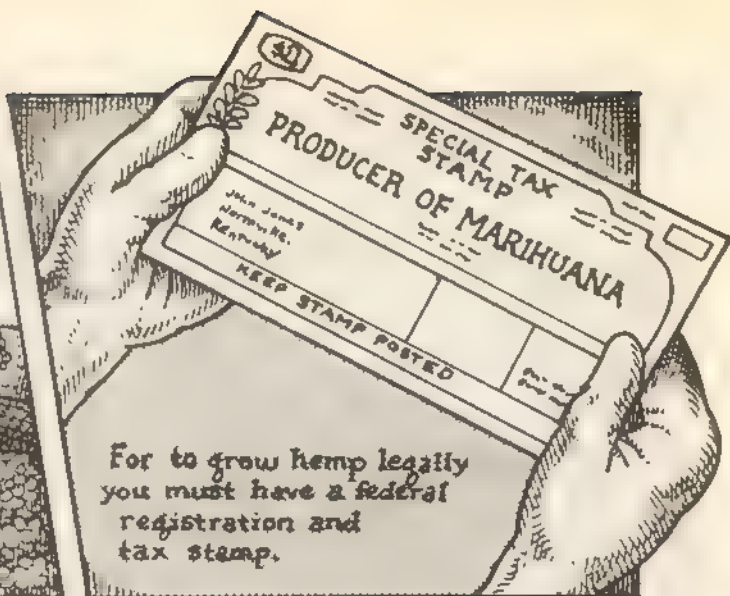


This program is designed to tell farmers how to handle this ancient crop now little known outside Kentucky and Wisconsin.

This is hemp seed. Be careful how you use it!



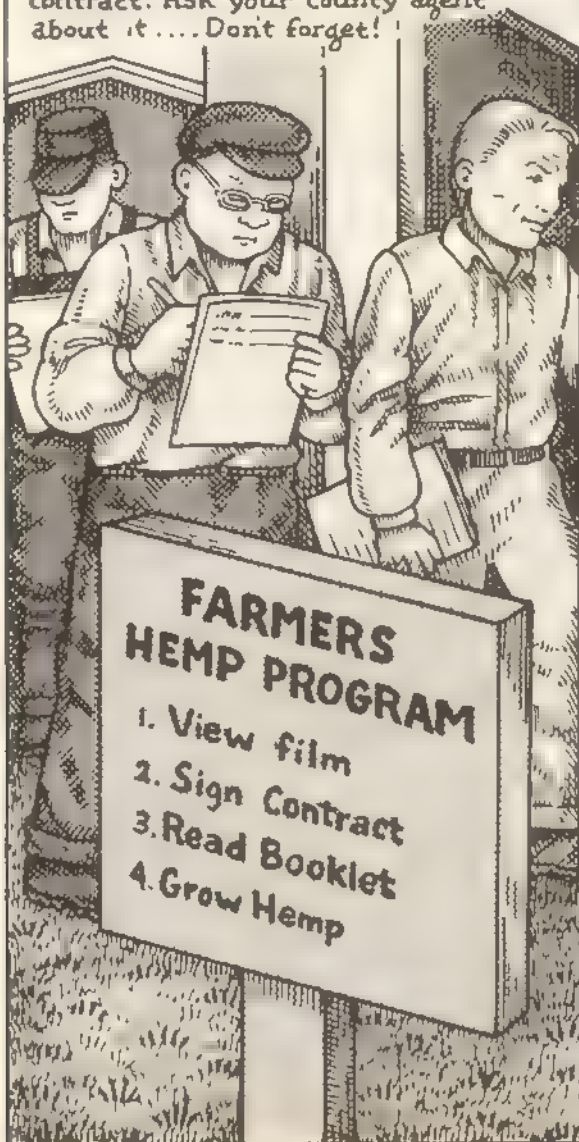
For to grow hemp legally you must have a federal registration and tax stamp.



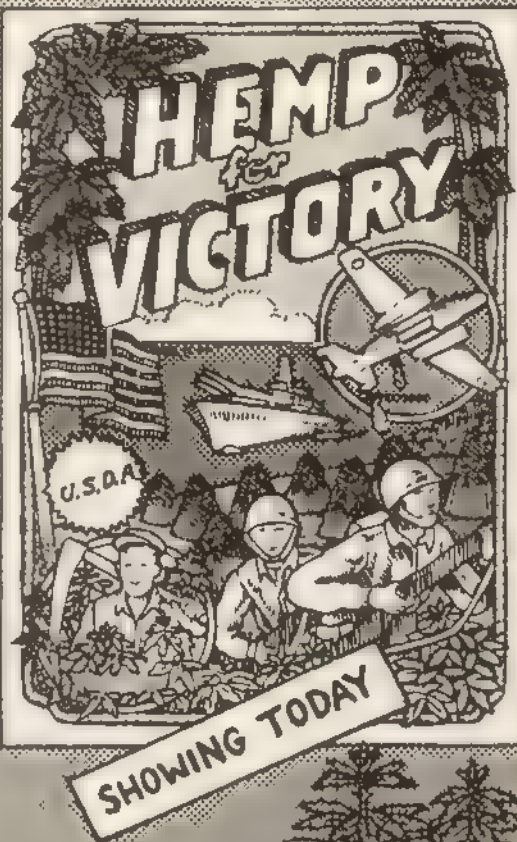
This is provided for in your contract. Ask your county agent about it .... Don't forget!

## FARMERS HEMP PROGRAM

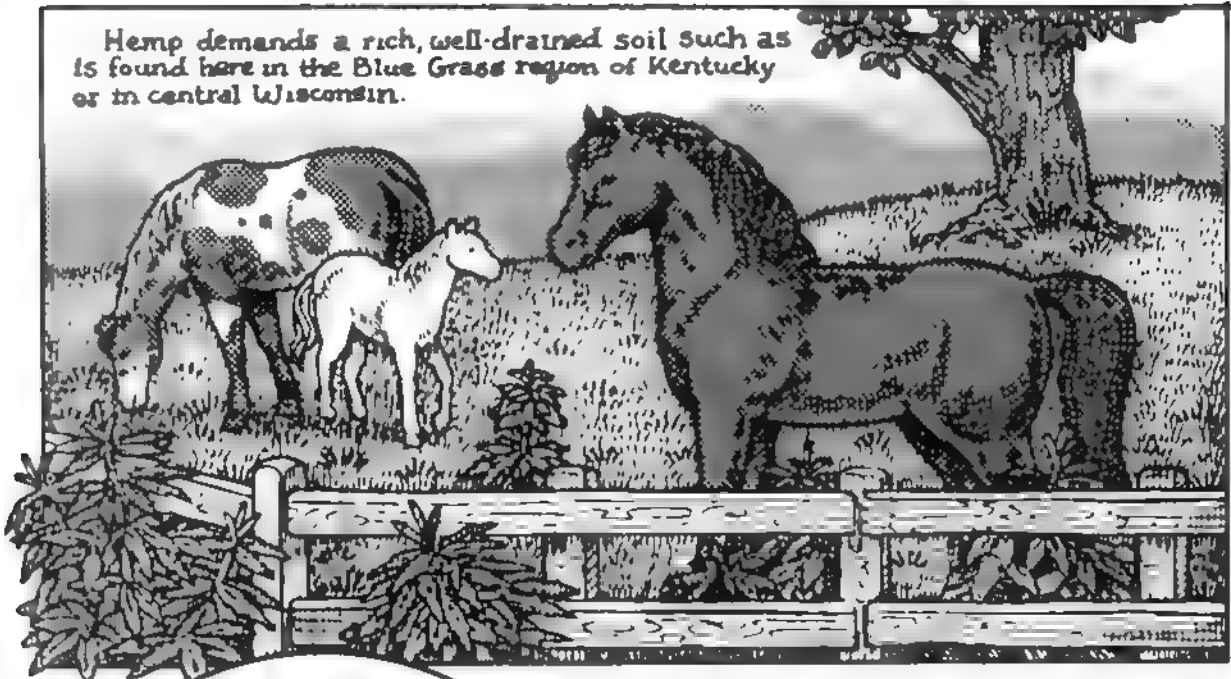
1. View film
2. Sign Contract
3. Read Booklet
4. Grow Hemp



THE UNITED STATES  
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
PRESENTS



Hemp demands a rich, well-drained soil such as is found here in the Blue Grass region of Kentucky or in central Wisconsin.



The soil must be loose and rich in organic matter. Poor soils won't do. Soil that will grow good corn will usually grow hemp. Hemp is not hard on the soil. In Kentucky it's been grown for years on the same ground.



A dense and shady crop, hemp tends to choke weeds...



Here's a Canada thistle that couldn't stand the competition - dead as a dodo!

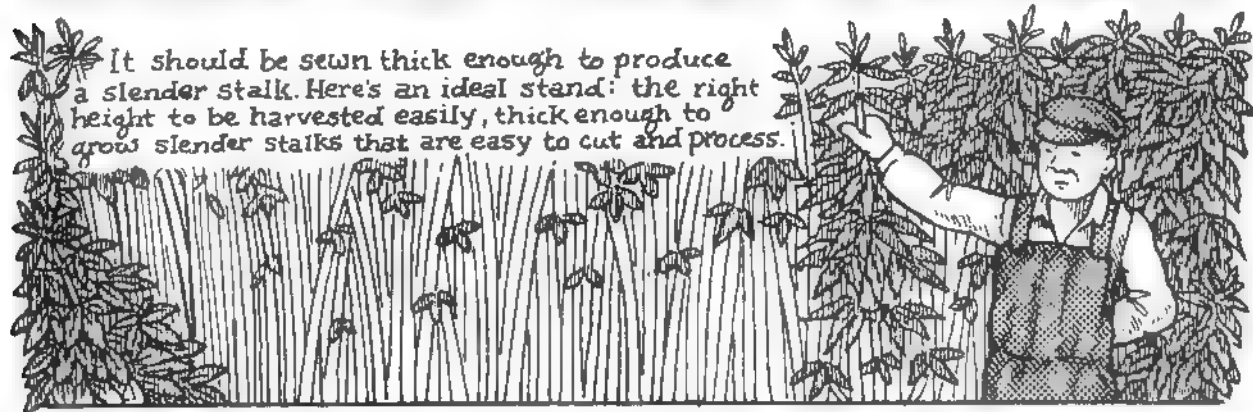




For fiber, hemp should be sewn closely, the closer the rows, the better. These rows are spaced about four inches.

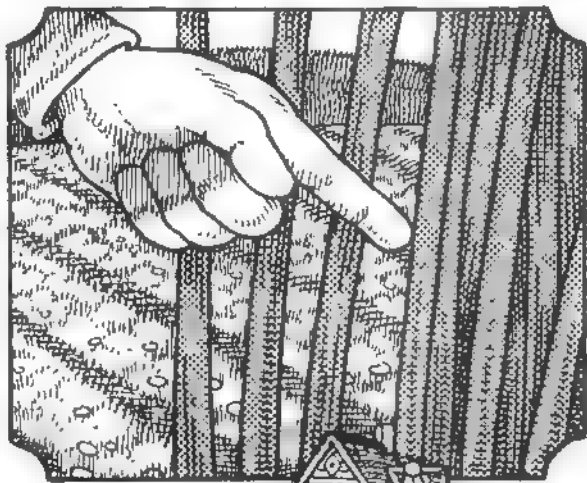
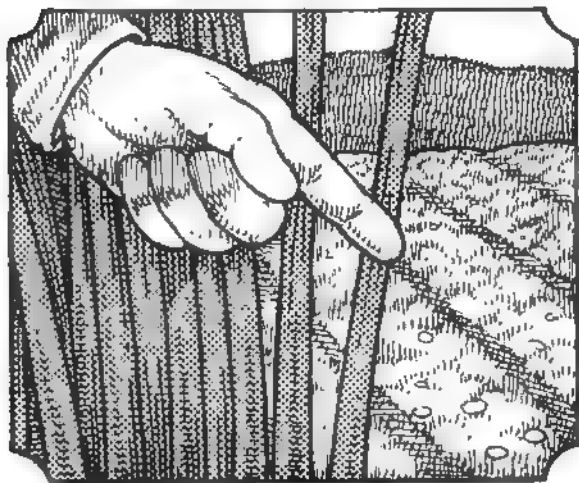


It should be sewn thick enough to produce a slender stalk. Here's an ideal stand: the right height to be harvested easily, thick enough to grow slender stalks that are easy to cut and process.

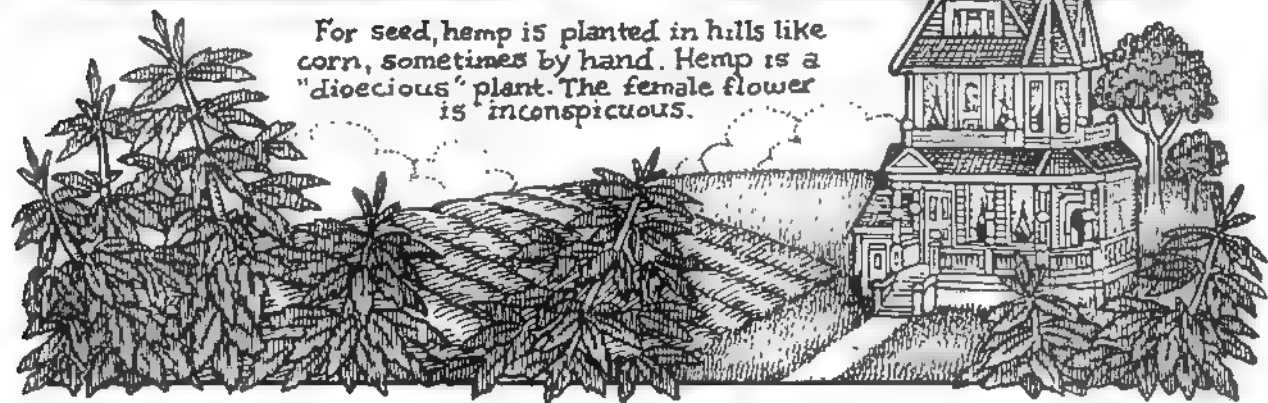


Stalks like these on the left yield the most fiber and the best....

Those on the right are too coarse and woody.

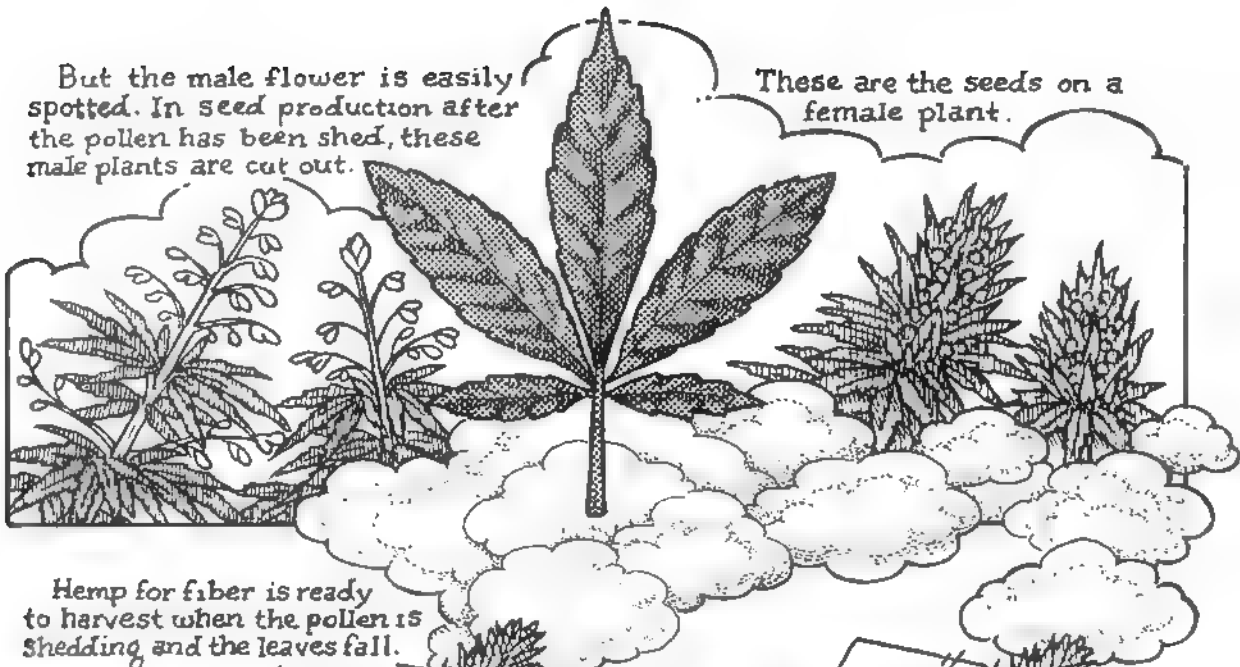


For seed, hemp is planted in hills like corn, sometimes by hand. Hemp is a "dioecious" plant. The female flower is inconspicuous.

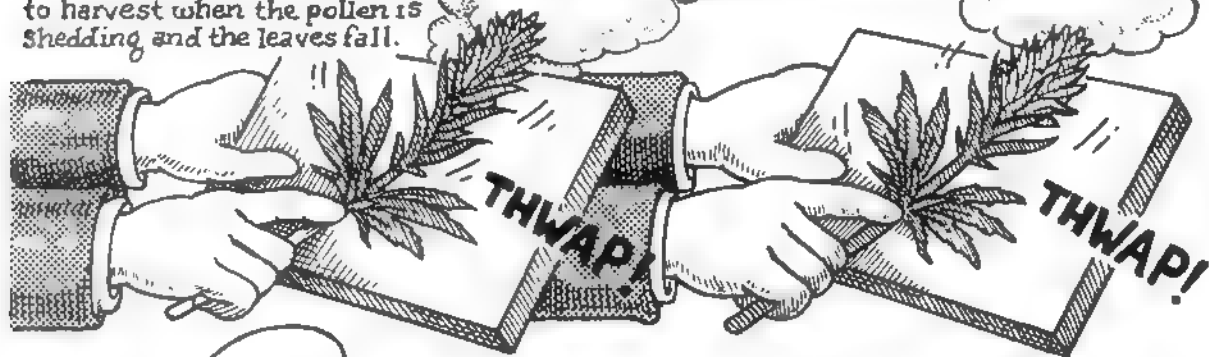


But the male flower is easily spotted. In seed production after the pollen has been shed, these male plants are cut out.

These are the seeds on a female plant.



Hemp for fiber is ready to harvest when the pollen is shedding and the leaves fall.



In Kentucky, hemp harvest comes in August. Here the old standby has been the self-rake reaper, which has been used for a generation or more ....

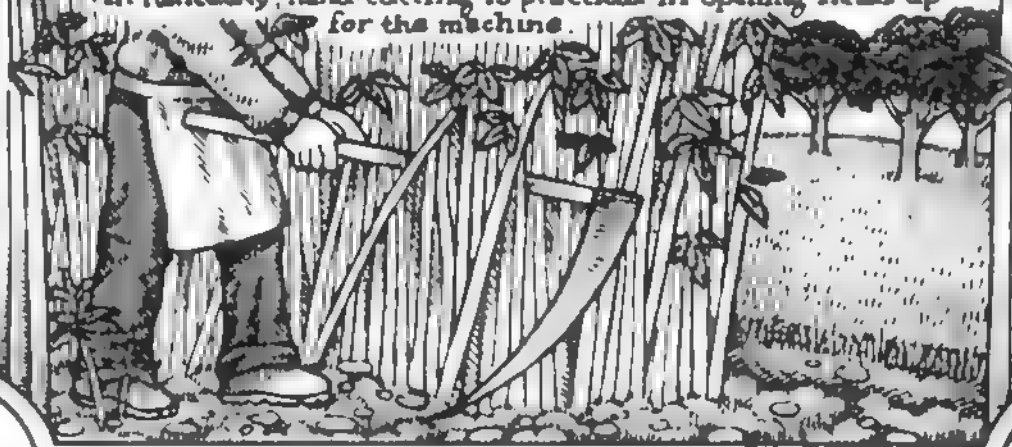




Hemp grows so luxuriantly in Kentucky that harvesting is sometimes difficult, which may account for the popularity of the self-rake with its lateral stroke. A modified rice binder has been used to some extent. This machine works well on average hemp. Recently, the improved hemp harvester, used for many years in Wisconsin, has been introduced in Kentucky. This machine spreads the hemp in a continuous swath. It is a far cry from this fast and efficient modern harvester, that doesn't stall in the heaviest hemp.



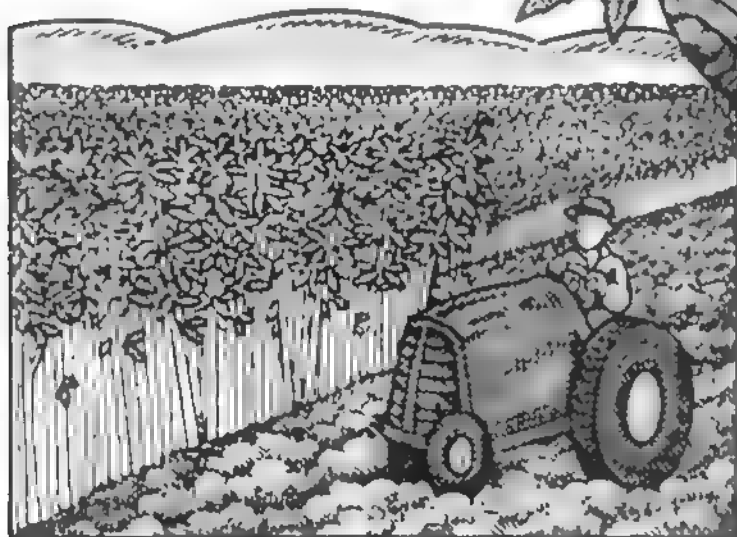
In Kentucky, hand-cutting is practiced in opening fields up for the machine.



In Kentucky, hemp is shucked as soon as safe after cutting, to be spread out for retting later in the fall.

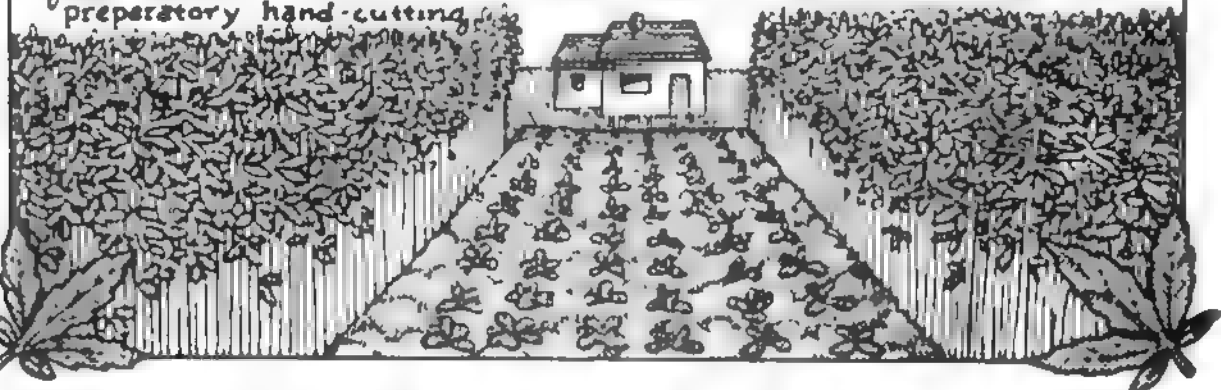


\*retting, the sun-drying of vegetation



In Wisconsin, hemp is harvested in September. Here the hemp harvester with automatic spreader is standard equipment. Note how smoothly the rotating apron lays the swaths preparatory to retting.

Here it is a common and essential practice to leave headlands around hemp fields. These strips may be planted with other crops, preferably small grain. Thus the harvester has room to make its first round without preparatory hand-cutting.





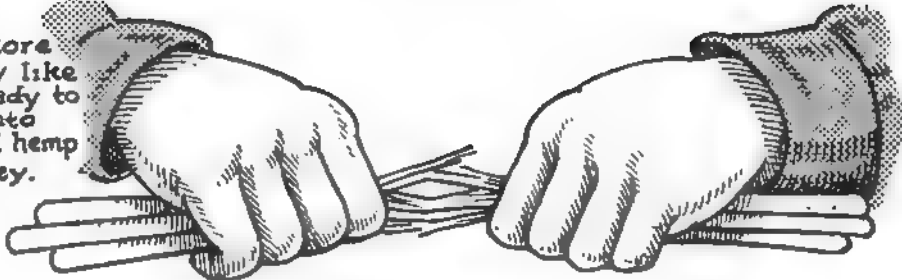
This machine is running over corn stubble....

When the cutter bar is shorter than the hemp is tall, overlapping occurs, not good for retting. The standard cut is eight to nine feet....

The length of time hemp is left on the ground to ret depends on the weather....

The swaths must be turned to achieve a uniform ret.

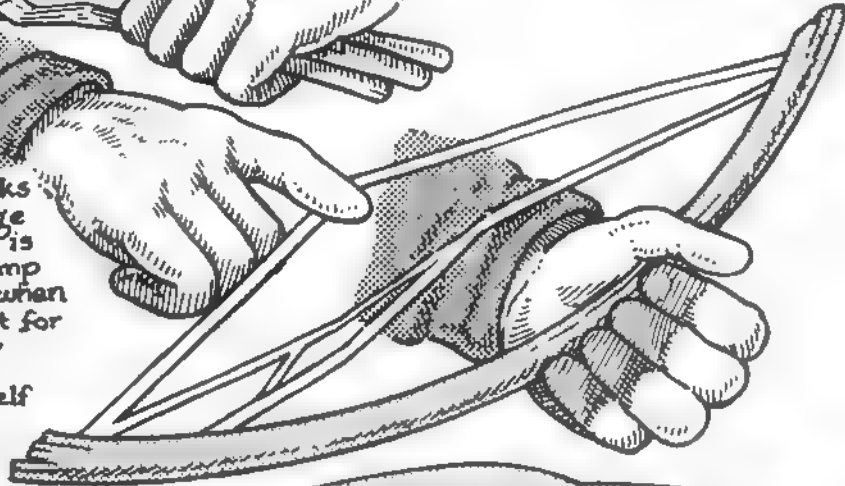
When the woody core breaks away readily like this, the hemp is ready to pick up and bind into bundles. Well-retted hemp is light to dark grey.



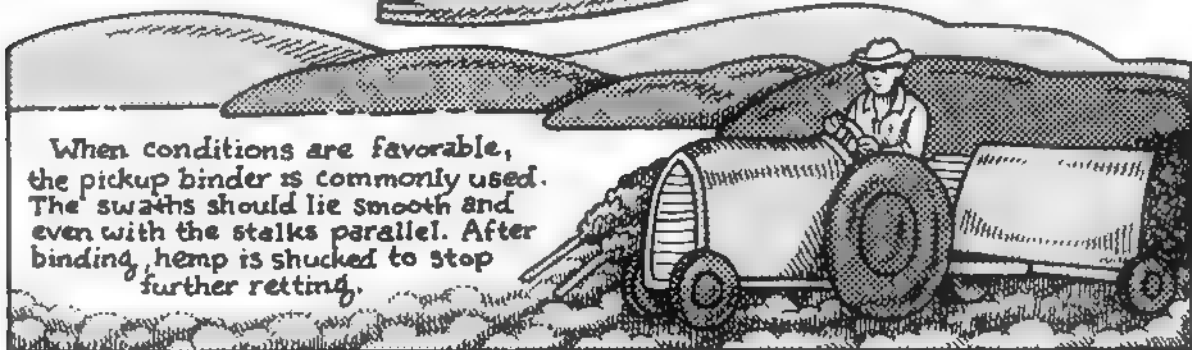
The fiber tends to pull away from the stalks.



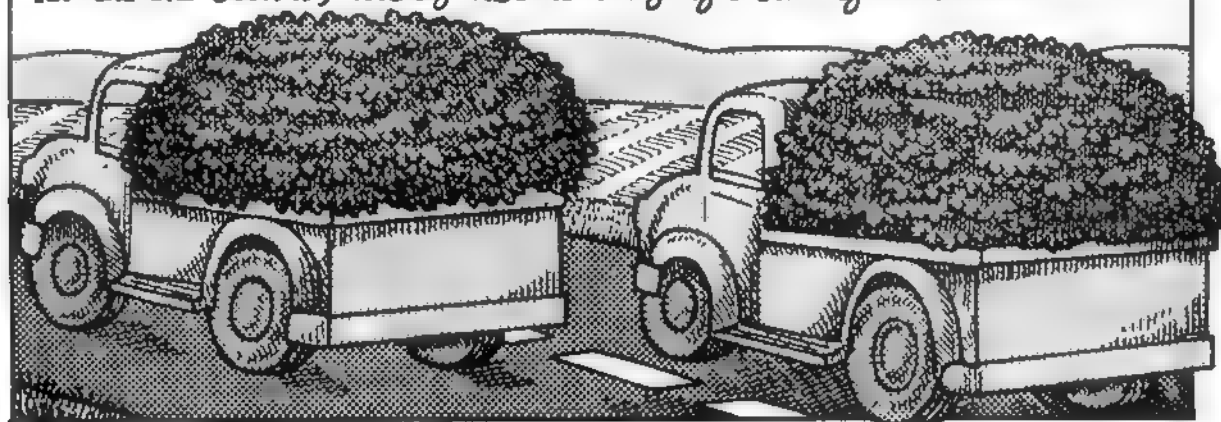
The presence of stalks in the bow-string stage indicates that retting is well underway. When hemp is short or tangled or when the ground is too wet for machines, it's bound by hand. Twine will do for tying, but the hemp itself makes a good band....



When conditions are favorable, the pickup binder is commonly used. The swaths should lie smooth and even with the stalks parallel. After binding, hemp is shucked to stop further retting.

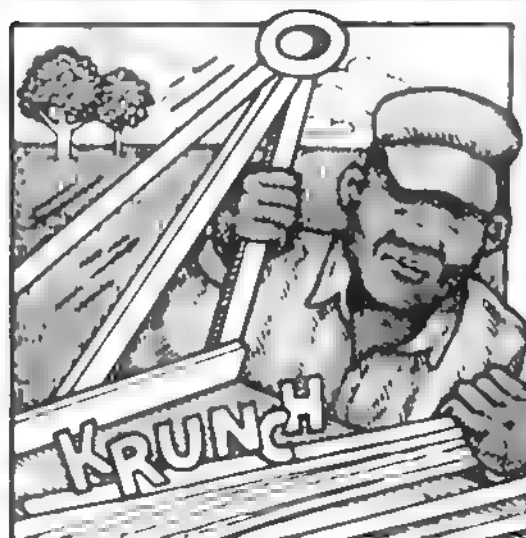


In 1942, 14,000 acres of fiber hemp were harvested in the United States. The goal for the old standby cordage fiber is staging a strong comeback.

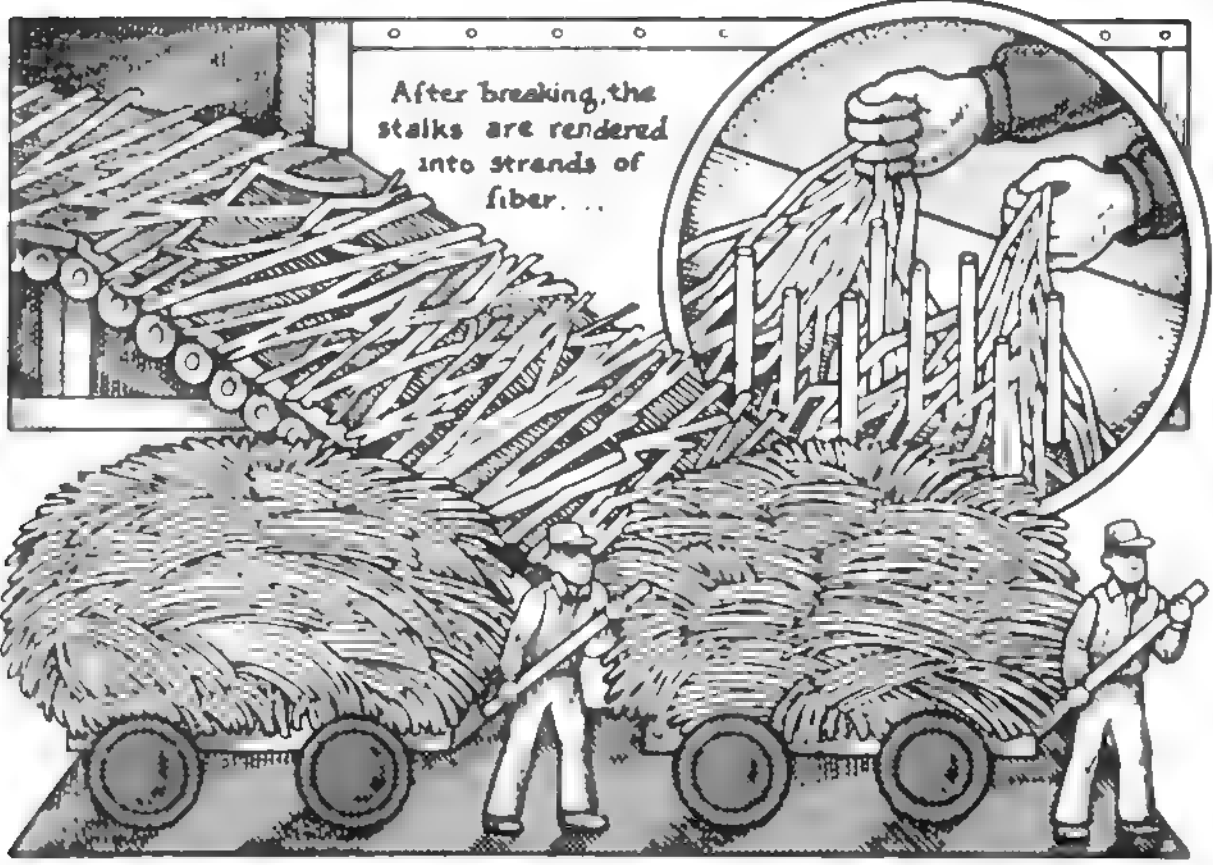




This is Kentucky hemp going into the dryer mill.



In the old days, breaking was done by hand, one of the hardest jobs known to men. Now the power breaker makes quick work of it!

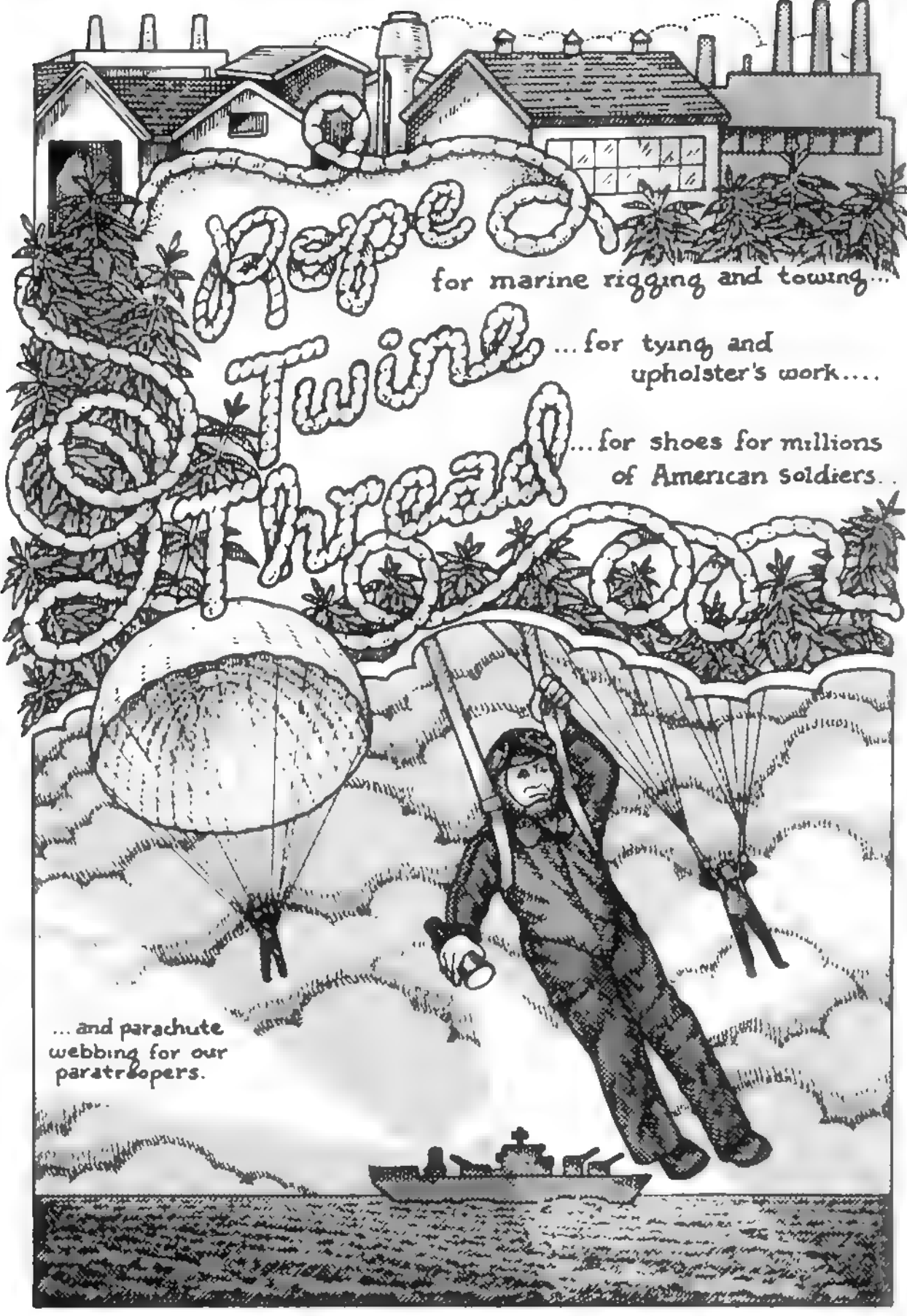


After breaking, the stalks are rendered into strands of fiber...



Here at the old river mill at Frankfort, Kentucky, American hemp is spun into rope, yarn, or twine





Rope on

for marine rigging and towing...

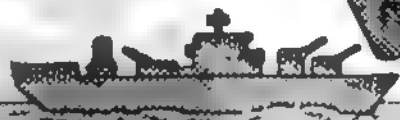
Twine

...for tying and upholster's work....

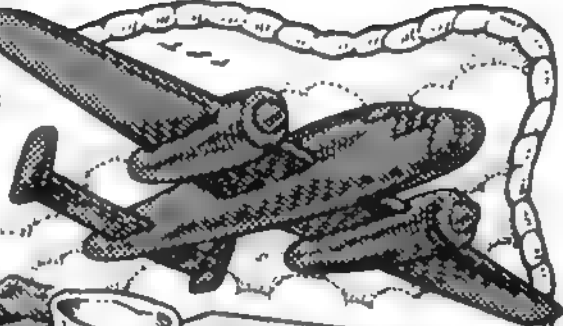
Thread

...for shoes for millions of American soldiers..

... and parachute webbing for our paratroopers.



In American Naval Yards, crews  
are now working night and day  
making cordage for the fleet.  
American hemp is going on  
duty again!.....



**HEMP!**

for mooring ships!

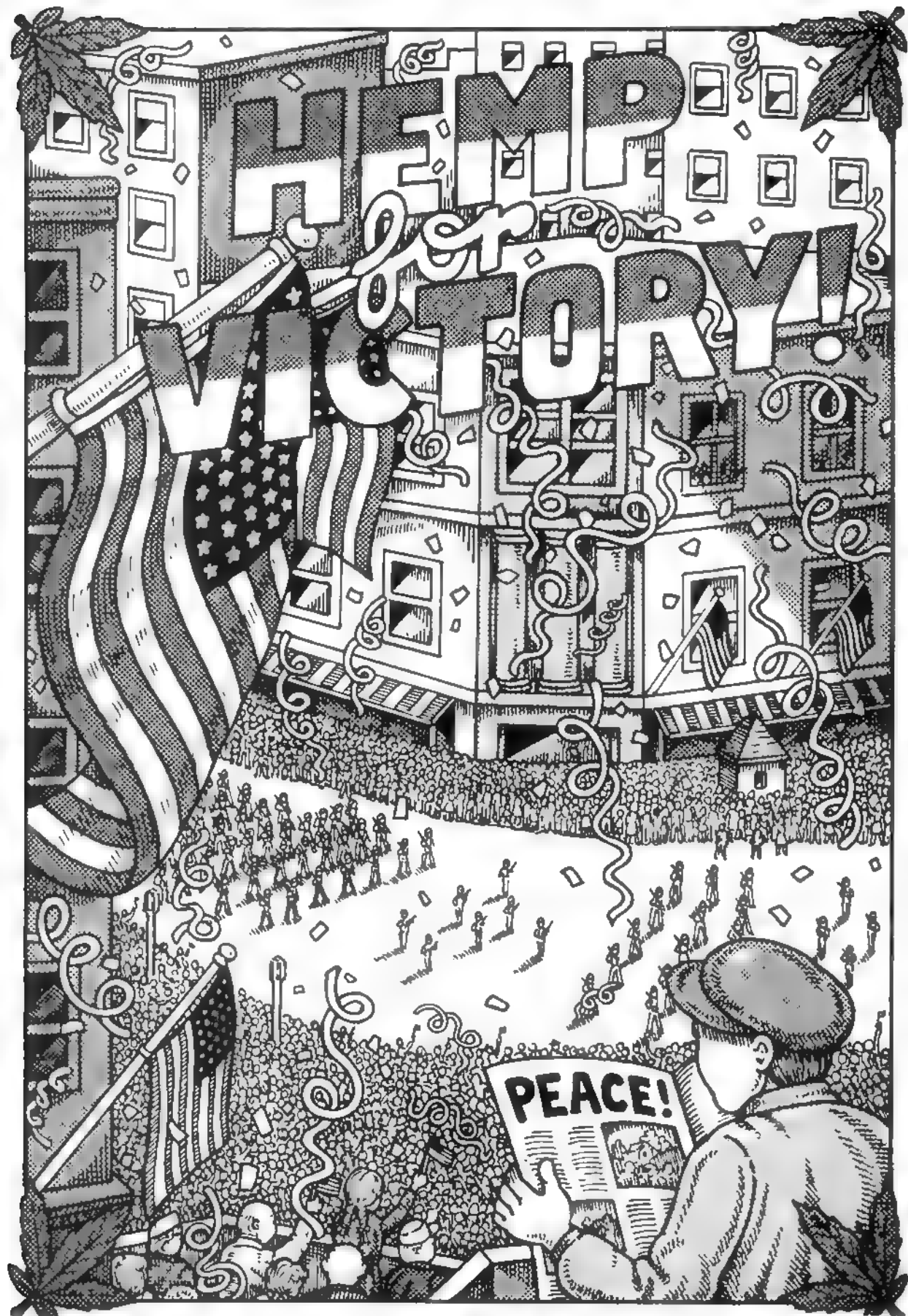
**HEMP!**

for tow lines!

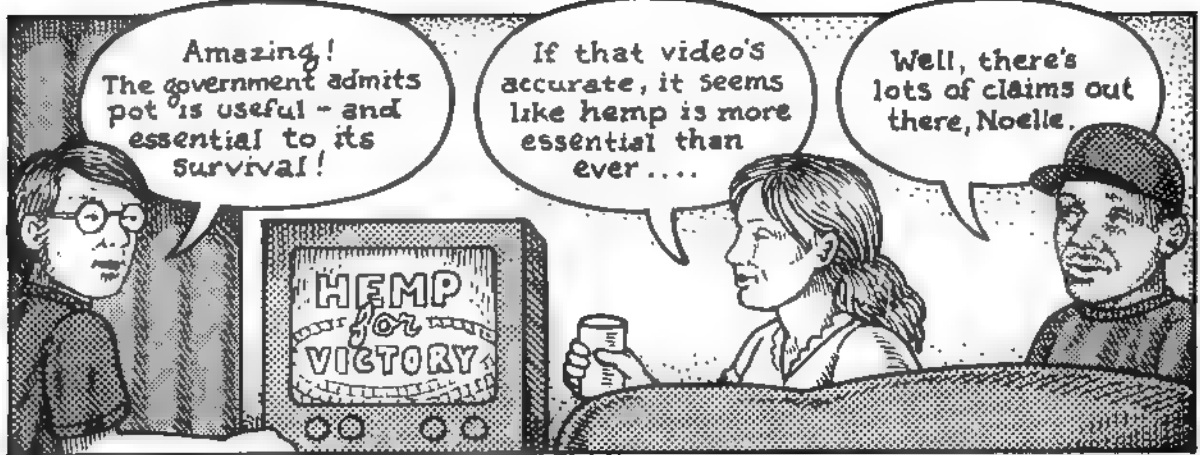
Hemp for tackle and  
hemp for gear!

Hemp for countless uses on both ship and shore!





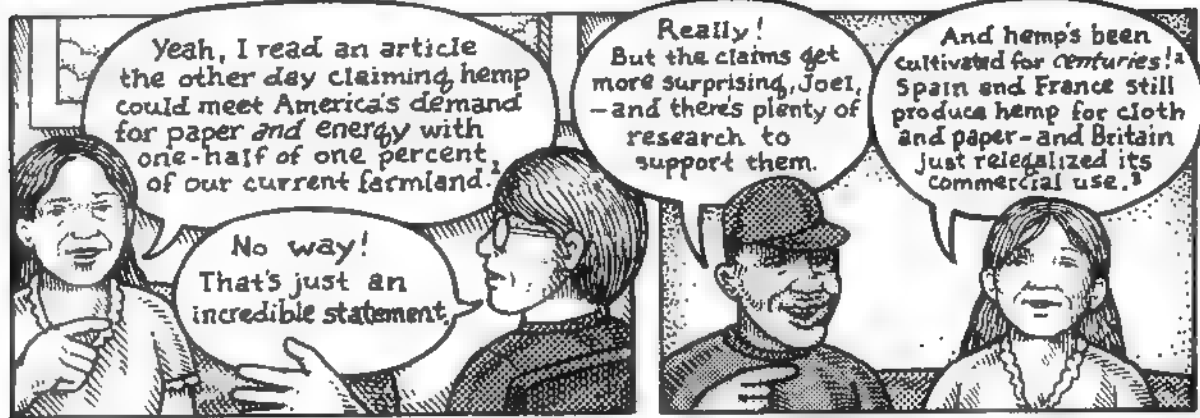




Amazing!  
The government admits  
pot is useful - and  
essential to its  
survival!

If that video's  
accurate, it seems  
like hemp is more  
essential than  
ever ....

Well, there's  
lots of claims out  
there, Noelle.

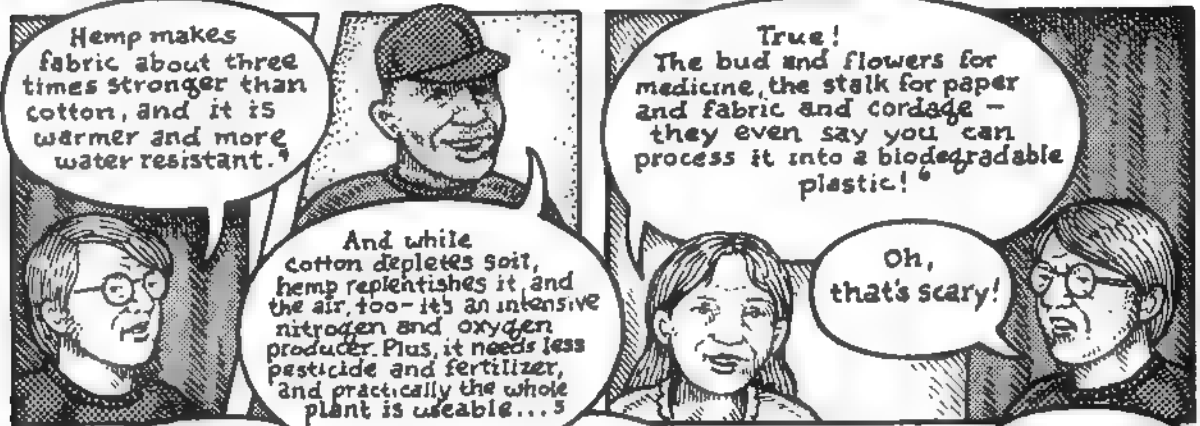


Yeah, I read an article  
the other day claiming hemp  
could meet America's demand  
for paper and energy with  
one-half of one percent  
of our current farmland.

No way!  
That's just an  
incredible statement.

Really!  
But the claims get  
more surprising, Joel,  
-and there's plenty of  
research to  
support them.

And hemp's been  
cultivated for centuries!<sup>1</sup>  
Spain and France still  
produce hemp for cloth  
and paper - and Britain  
just relegalized its  
commercial use.<sup>2</sup>



Hemp makes  
fabric about three  
times stronger than  
cotton, and it is  
warmer and more  
water resistant.<sup>3</sup>

True!  
The bud and flowers for  
medicine, the stalk for paper  
and fabric and cordage -  
they even say you can  
process it into a biodegradable  
plastic!<sup>6</sup>

And while  
cotton depletes soil,  
hemp replenishes it, and  
the air, too - it's an intensive  
nitrogen and oxygen  
producer. Plus, it needs less  
pesticide and fertilizer,  
and practically the whole  
plant is useable...<sup>5</sup>

Oh,  
that's scary!



Think so?  
What if we preserve our  
remaining forests while  
helping the air with hemp  
for paper, but also replace  
foreign oil with non-petroleum  
fuel and plastics made  
from a domestic crop?!

Wow!  
The other thing's  
the yield, right?

Well,  
forestry techniques  
always improve,  
but some sources  
say an acre of hemp  
yields two to four  
times an acre of  
trees.<sup>7</sup>

In any case,  
an acre of hemp  
is harvestable  
annually. An acre  
of trees can take  
30 years to  
mature.<sup>8</sup>

Did you know that doctors used to prescribe hemp for insomnia, stress, and neuralgia?

No surprise. Marijuana's a well-recognized treatment for glaucoma and for the pain and nausea of multiple sclerosis, and now AIDS.<sup>10</sup> It calms and soothes, while drugs like AZT can make AIDS even more of an ordeal...

Ha ha! Yeah! Even the Drug Enforcement Agency admits it - Judge Francis Young called it "one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man."<sup>14</sup>

So why can we only get it on the street at the risk of going to jail? And losing everything we own!

Medical marijuana's part of a bigger fight for access to herbal treatments of all kinds. Opponents say it's to save us from the old Snake Oil fraud, but many herbs are centuries old - and they're "integral" medicines that enhance the immune system.<sup>17</sup>

It's even deeper. Among some 50,000 estimated commercial and medicinal uses of hemp,<sup>19</sup> it's an ideal food! Take hempseed oil: about the lowest in saturated fats, and it contains fatty acids essential to immune response.<sup>20</sup>

Yeah, nasty side-effects you don't get from pot. Someone told me it's even good for asthma.<sup>12</sup>

I've heard that, though smoking it can encourage bronchitis - any kind of smoking is just bad for you.<sup>13</sup>

True - but it's so immediate!

The War on Drugs! Although 35 states permit medical use of marijuana,<sup>15</sup> it's still illegal as a dangerous narcotic! The government treats it like heroin or cocaine instead of the natural herb it is.

The only victims of marijuana are from police arrest! No one has ever died from it.

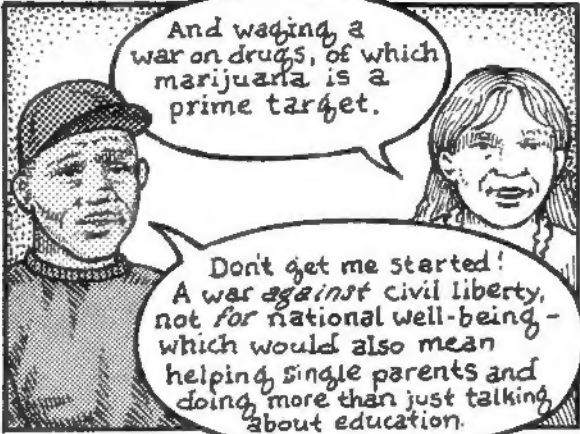
And yet thousands of people die every year from tobacco and alcohol, which are legal!<sup>16</sup>

Hold on! That's important, because some reports claim that our environment is becoming so toxic that immune deficiency is a growing ailment.<sup>18</sup>

It's part of what AIDS is about.

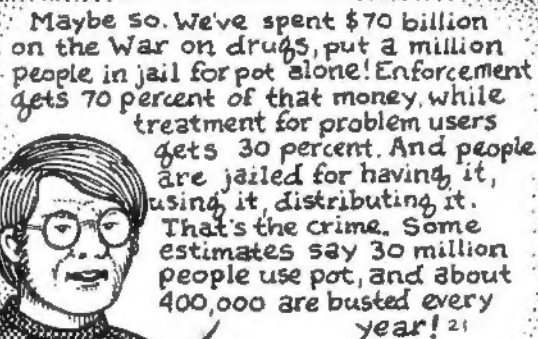
It's scary that we have this superb natural medicine - but the U.S. government insists on promoting dangerous drugs...

And everything else! We're slaves to oil and we're rapidly depleting our forests.

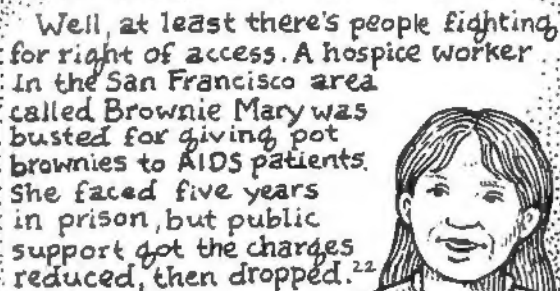


And waging a war on drugs, of which marijuana is a prime target.

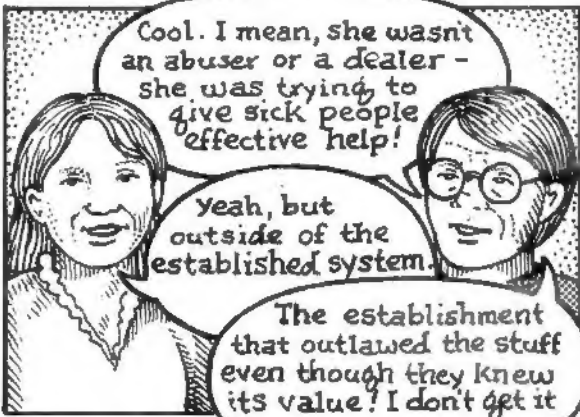
Don't get me started! A war against civil liberty, not for national well-being - which would also mean helping single parents and doing more than just talking about education.



Maybe so. We've spent \$70 billion on the War on drugs, put a million people in jail for pot alone! Enforcement gets 70 percent of that money, while treatment for problem users gets 30 percent. And people are jailed for having it, using it, distributing it. That's the crime. Some estimates say 30 million people use pot, and about 400,000 are busted every year!<sup>21</sup>



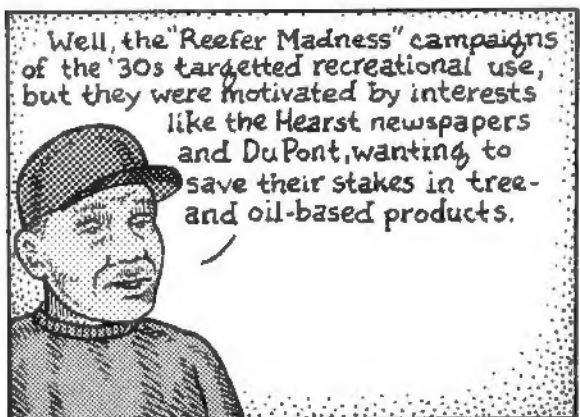
Well, at least there's people fighting for right of access. A hospice worker in the San Francisco area called Brownie Mary was busted for giving pot brownies to AIDS patients. She faced five years in prison, but public support got the charges reduced, then dropped.<sup>22</sup>




Cool. I mean, she wasn't an abuser or a dealer - she was trying to give sick people effective help!

yeah, but outside of the established system.

The establishment that outlawed the stuff even though they knew its value! I don't get it

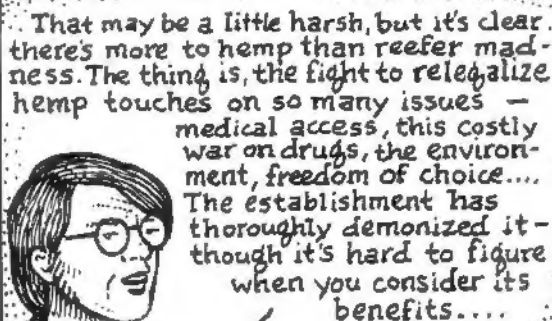


Well, the "Reefer Madness" campaigns of the '30s targetted recreational use, but they were motivated by interests like the Hearst newspapers and DuPont, wanting to save their stakes in tree- and oil-based products.

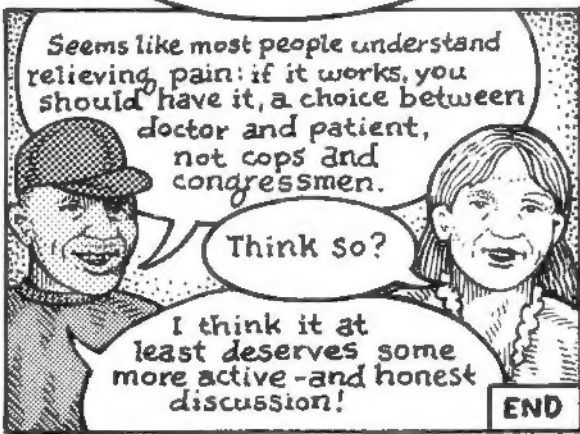


Didn't *Popular Mechanics* run an article around 1938 calling hemp a "New Billion - Dollar Crop."<sup>24</sup>

And now it's illegal and millions are made by blackmarket dealers and law enforcement getting fat waging a dubious war on civil liberties.



That may be a little harsh, but it's clear there's more to hemp than reefer madness. The thing is, the fight to relegalize hemp touches on so many issues - medical access, this costly war on drugs, the environment, freedom of choice.... The establishment has thoroughly demonized it - though it's hard to figure when you consider its benefits....



Seems like most people understand relieving pain: if it works, you should have it, a choice between doctor and patient, not cops and congressmen.

Think so?

I think it at least deserves some more active - and honest discussion!

END



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**FOOTNOTES TO EPILOGUE**

1. *The Return of the New Billion Dollar Crop* and *The Return of the Commercial Cannabis Crop* videos, available from John Birrenbach's Institute for Hemp (listed in directory).
2. numerous sources, including the Columbia University History of the World, and *The Return of the History of Cannabis* (Institute for Hemp).
3. "Commercial Hemp Legalized in UK" by Peter Gorman, in *High Times* 6.93, Page 19.
- 4-8. various sources, including the Columbia *History of the World*, Jack Herer's *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, HempTek Industries info-log, *Hemp Times Quarterly* 6.93.
- 9-12. various sources, including The Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics (ACT, Washington D.C.), *The Return of the Medicinal Cannabis Crop* (Institute for Hemp), and *Proclamation of the Green Panthers!* 3.93.
13. Family Council on Drug Awareness bulletin 11.90, citing Fred Oerther, M.D.
14. Francis Young, Chief Administrative Law Judge for the DEA, cited in *Hemp Times Quarterly* 6.3.93.
15. noted in Dr. Lester Grinspoon & James B. Bakalar's *Marihuana, The Forbidden Medicine*.
16. numerous sources, including U.S. Bureau of Mortality Statistics, 1987; various university medical studies (UCLA, Harvard, Temple, et al) cited in FCDA bulletin 11.90.
17. "Official Intolerance at FDA" by Bill Weinberg in *High Times* 6.93, Page 20; *Proclamation of the Green Panthers!* 3.93
18. various articles in the daily press.
19. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, federal documents, historical records; FCDA bulletin 11.90; *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*.
20. "Hemp Seed Nutrition" flyer by Access Unlimited (Frazier Park, CA); "Hemp Seed: Nature's Versatile Food Source" flyer by The Ohio Hempery (Athens, OH); "Therapeutic Hemp Oil" by Andrew Weil, M.D., in *Natural Health* 3/4.93. Also noted in *Hemp Times Quarterly* 6.93.
21. various sources, including *Proclamation of the Green Panthers!* 3.93, *Marihuana, The Forbidden Medicine*, and "The war on drugs is a \$70-billion bust" by Neal R. Pierce in *The Sacramento Bee* 6.13.93 (per Eric Harlow, NCAP).
22. "Activist Victories on the Legal Front" by Weinberg & Gorman in *High Times* 6.93, Page 23.
23. various sources, including Larry Sloman's *Reefer Madness, The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, FCDA bulletin. Passingly noted in *Hemp Times Quarterly* 6.93
24. *Popular Mechanics* 10.38, cited and reprinted in *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*.

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[http://www.crrh.org/hemptv/docs\\_victory.html](http://www.crrh.org/hemptv/docs_victory.html)

Transcript:

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Government\\_Research/USDA/  
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